

$\rho_g$  is the port average gas density and  $U_g$  is the port average gas velocity; and  
determining for a thickness  $h$  of a liquid layer formed on the surface of said fuel;  
wherein said port mass flux value and said thickness satisfy the relationship of:

$$G^{1.6} h^{0.6} \geq a_{\text{onset}},$$

and] where  $a_{\text{onset}}$  is the entrainment onset parameter and is given by:

$$a_{\text{onset}} = 1.05 \times 10^{-2} [\rho_g^{1.3} / \rho_l^{0.3}] [1 / (Cf_{\text{ref}} C_{B1})^{0.8}] (1 / \mu_g) \sigma \mu_l^{0.6};$$

where  $\rho_g$  is the port average gas density,  $\rho_l$  is the liquid density of the propellant,  $Cf_{\text{ref}}$  is the reference friction coefficient,  $C_{B1}$  is the blowing correction coefficient, and  $\mu_g$  is the port mean gas viscosity; and

selecting said propellant such that  $a_{\text{onset}}$  has a value that promotes entrainment of droplets from said liquid layer into said gas stream flowing in said port, where the units of  $a_{\text{onset}}$  is  $[kg^{1.65} / m^{2.3} \cdot sec^{1.65}] [kg^{1.6} / m^{2.6} \cdot sec^{1.6}]$

15. (Amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein  $a_{\text{onset}}$  is equal to or less than approximately  $0.9 [kg^{1.65} / m^{2.3} \cdot sec^{1.65}] [kg^{1.6} / m^{2.6} \cdot sec^{1.6}]$ .

16. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 14 wherein the propellant is selected from the n-alkane class of hydrocarbons, having the general formula of  $C_n H_{2n+2}$  and mixtures thereof, where  $n$  is a mean carbon number and is in the range of 15 to 80, and which are solid at room temperature.

17. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 14 wherein the propellant is selected from the group of alkylnaphthalene compounds, anthracene, and mixtures thereof

18. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 14 wherein the propellant is selected from the group of organic acids having the general formula of  $CH_3 (CH_2)_n COOH$  and mixtures thereof, where  $n$  is in the range of 8 to 25.

19. (Unchanged) The method of Claim 14 wherein the propellant is selected from